

Mr. Stan Meiburg
Acting Regional Administrator
United States Environmental Protection Agency
Region 4
Atlanta Federal Center
61 Forsyth Street
Atlanta, Georgia 30303-8960

September 4, 2001

Mr. Stan Meiburg, Acting Regional Administrator
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Atlanta, Georgia 30303-8960

Dear Mr. Meiburg:

Subject: Proposed changes to Mississippi Agricultural Aviation Board and request that EPA not withdraw program approval

This is in response to your letter of May 31, 2001. Based on major short-term and long-term changes that I am proposing in the membership and functioning of the Mississippi Agricultural Aviation Board (AAB), I am requesting that EPA not withdraw approval for Mississippi's program for Certification of Commercial and Private Applicators of Restricted Use Pesticides.

During the upcoming regular legislative session, which will begin in January and run through March of 2002, I will ask the Legislature to reconstitute the AAB to make it reflect a broader spectrum of Mississippi interests. In general, I think the Board should include a mix of state agency officials, representatives of our universities, citizens, and some continuing representation from the agricultural aviation community. If the Legislature makes these requested changes, the amended law would become effective by July 1, 2002, or earlier.

I have received the resignation of the current board membership. I will charge my personal staff and staff of the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality to work closely with the Board. I am confident that under these conditions we can cause the AAB to function acceptably to EPA until the permanent statutory change in its structure can be made.

Please let me know as soon as possible if these proposals are acceptable to you.

Very truly yours,

RONNIE MUSGROVE

RM:MTB:sed